

U.S.S.N. 10/763,876

Filed: January 23, 2004

**SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

**Amendment**

**In the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 6 as follows. Support for the amendment is found at least in claim 8 as originally filed.

The biodegradable compositions disclosed here are poly(ester-anhydrides) which are formed by melt or solvent polycondensation of aliphatic or aromatic diacids or hydroxy acids and ricinoleic acid to form a liquid polymer. In one embodiment, the poly(ester-anhydride) is prepared from a polyanhydride and ricinoleic acid, wherein the concentration of ricinoleic acid is at least 90% by weight of the polymer. The mono acid non-linear hydrocarbons act as molecular weight controllers which limit the molecular weight to about 10,000. This relatively low but controlled molecular weight and low polydispersity, are less sensitive to depolymerization and are more stable to hydrolysis due to their hydrophobic terminals. The non-linear structure provides a range of new properties including: various degradation times and drug release profiles, and reduced melting temperature and crystallinity due to irregularity induced by the bend terminals or side chains.